

REMARKS

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koo (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,024). Applicants note that Koo was filed on December 26, 2001 and claims priority to provisional application serial number 60/323,541 filed on September 20, 2001. Applicants' application was filed on January 30, 2001 and claims priority to provisional patent application serial number 60/179,911 filed on February 3, 2000. Both Applicants' provisional patent application and utility application predate the filing date of both the Koo provisional and utility applications. As such, Koo is not prior art against claim 5 and claim 5 is in condition for allowance. Because claims 6-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, base claim 5, Applicants submit that claims 6-9 are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1, 3, 4 and 10-12.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants request the removal of the final rejection in this case and the timely allowance of claims 1 and 3-12.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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